

MINUTES  
Elbert County Extension Advisory Committee  
Ag Building Meeting Room  
February 6, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Susan McMullen with Pam Witucki, Gail Ralston and Extension Agent Sheila Kelley in attendance.

**Old Business:**

How to distribute the **Rural Living Guide** was discussed. It was decided that we would try to get it out to anyone willing to set it out for distribution. The group thought it was a good idea to re-offer it to the area realtors. Kelley and her staff, however, do not have time to email all the realtors so that decision was put on hold.

As of this date, there are no plans to hire an **additional agent** for the county. CSU is still holding off in funding the position due to their budgetary constraints. The county is still holding the \$12,700 in reserve for whenever the position comes open through CSU.

The **fairgrounds manager position** has changed. A new person was hired and is titled the fairgrounds events manager. People will still have to go through her, Kyrei Zion, to make reservations for the facilities/campground.

**New Business:**

There are currently a number of **positions open on the committee**. Members were asked to brainstorm possible recruitments and let Kelley know. The bylaws state there should be four each on three different terms for a total of 12 altogether.

In the **Extension update**, Kelley reported on seven areas: 4-H, professional development, state duties, Master Gardener, agricultural, family and consumer science programming and administrative responsibilities since the last meeting in 2013.

**4-H:**

1. Elbert County brought 129 exhibits to the Colorado State Fair; nine champions in which four were awarded a trip to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA.
2. Had three Elbert County finalists for the prestigious Daniels scholarship.
3. State conference attendance:
  - a. One livestock judging team – proceeded on to national competition
  - b. Two horse judging teams – each member placed within their contests
  - c. Two public speaking contestants
  - d. Four horse speaking contestants – two proceeded on to national competition
4. Hosted three animal weigh-ins; three Meat Quality Assurance classes and three open scale nights.
5. Two delegates to Citizenship Washington Focus trip.
6. High number of camp attendance:
  - a. Leadership Development – 10
  - b. Youth Fest – 14

- c. District Retreat – 10
- d. State Conference – 21
- e. Dare to Be You – 36
- f. Cloverbud Camp – 50+
- 7. Hosted county contests: three judging; three pre-fair; three specialty and one fashion revue.
- 8. Mandatory safety meetings: horse, shooting sports, dog.
- 9. Mandatory leader training for about 80-85 leaders.
- 10. Mandatory officer training for about 75 officers.
- 11. Added a new club (#12!) from the Deer Trail area.
- 12. Oct. – Dec. trained leaders from all clubs on how to enroll their families in 4honline, the new system required by CSU.
- 13. Oct. – Dec. worked with all clubs to educate and help them with newly required IRS paperwork. Will become an annual event.

#### **Professional Development:**

- 1. Attended over 50 hours of professional development through annual forum, ESP, CAE4-HA/NAE4-HA, Area Directors training, Winter Muster, Southern Region staff meeting and Southern Regional 4-H Agents meeting.

#### **State Duties:**

- 1. Serve as chairperson for the ESP awards committee. Recruited 20 applicants for awards which is a high number.
- 2. Completed a three-year term as president of CAE4-HA.
- 3. Chairperson of the CAE4-HA communications committee. In charge of webpage.

#### **Master Gardeners:**

- 1. Worked with two MG's and put together a "Spring Wildflower's of Elbert County" publication.
- 2. Finalized all year-end paperwork.
- 3. Recruited two new applicants for 2014.
- 4. Oversaw monthly meetings and provided one hour continuing education.
- 5. Will provide five community educational meetings in partnership with the Elizabeth Tree Board celebrating "The Year of the Tree" programming.

#### **Agricultural programming:**

- 1. Planned and recruited other CSU specialists/agents to provide ag programming due to lack of ag agent. All, except Dave's (due to space restrictions) will be made open to the public to try to provide ag programming for adults in Elbert County.
  - a. Retinal scanning
  - b. Dr. Temple Grandin on animal handling
  - c. Dr. Brett Kirch on general animal herd health
  - d. Dave's Custom Cuts – members see actual carcass cuts
  - e. Food safety myths and truths by a member from CSU meat lab.

**Family and Consumer Science:**

1. Planned and recruited other CSU specialists/agents to provide FCS programming. Again, all are open to the public.
  - a. Make adult bullying unacceptable
  - b. True colors – a personality assessment tool
  - c. Small steps to better health and wealth
  - d. Positive customer service
2. Recruited three Master Food Safety Advisors to have volunteers in the office in 2014 and to offer educational classes to the public.

**Administrative:**

1. Part of the new county administrative team.
2. Write monthly positive news articles regarding the county
3. Compose a monthly county employee newsletter
4. Three monthly meetings with BOCC.
5. Prepared the annual budget.

**Plan of Action:**

The group thought that the most important thing to do would be to get a report together of accomplishments and send another request to CSU to hire an agricultural agent immediately. Kelley will work on the report.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sheila G. Kelley  
Extension Director  
Elbert County